

## Twentieth Century Building Styles: Modern Era (circa 1920-1975)

*Modern architecture was first introduced in the United States in the 1920s. The emphasis on historical precedent gave way to a new emphasis on the sleek mechanics of building materials and industrial design. Technology and efficiency became the rule, and the break with handcrafted elements was complete. Early modern buildings in Rockville were primarily commercial. Only a few modern residences pre-date World War II. Following the war, however, the style grew in popularity. Attached or sunken garages were incorporated into houses starting in the 1930s.*

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### **ART DECO (1920-1930)**

The old Farmer's Bank, at 4 Courthouse Square and built circa 1927, is a good example of the art deco style with smooth exterior walls integrated between vertical columns of ribbon windows, and adorned with stylized geometrical design.



4 Courthouse Sq. ■

1927



595 N. Stonestreet Ave. ▲

1935

**ART MODERNE (1930-1940)**

The art moderne style differs from art deco with an emphasis on horizontal lines. Lincoln High School, at 595 N. Stonestreet Avenue and built in 1935 for African-American students is a good example. The brick building has a low, horizontal silhouette, and the stone quoins around the door, horizontal grooves along the low flat roof, and windows are characteristic of the style. The County Council building, at 100 Maryland Avenue and built in 1953, illustrates the continued appearance of certain styles past their hey day.



100 Maryland Ave.

1953



801 Hungerford Dr.

1963

**COMMERCIAL ROADSIDE**

These buildings were designed to catch your eye while moving at high speeds in an automobile. They are susceptible to demolition, as owners tend to strive for an "up to date" image along the road. The gas station at 801 Hungerford Drive, built in 1963, has a twin in Laytonsville. Designed for Shell oil and then used by Phillips 66, the building is a symbol of the automobile era, with large canted, vertical display windows.

**COMMERCIAL/VERNACULAR**

Sometimes there is no “style,” and buildings defy a label! The building at 131 Congressional Lane is reputed to be the last remaining building associated with the Congressional Airport (1928 - 1958) on Rockville Pike. The size and scale of the building reflects its era, and the lack of “style” perhaps reflects its functionality.



**103 N. Horners Ln.**

**1932**



**131 Congressional Ln.**

**1930**



135 S. Van Buren St. 1949

**INTERNATIONAL (1930-1970)**

The international style emphasizes the structural frame of the building. Often exterior walls are not used for support, but are glass or “curtain” walls that expose the interior structure or steel skeleton of the building. International style buildings are identifiable by their flat roofs, ribbon windows set flush with the walls, and little or no adornment. Most of these buildings are institutional, such as the Carl Sandburg School at 451 Meadow Hall Drive and designed by Arthur L. Anderson in the Twinbrook community in 1962.



390 Martins Ln. 1951



850 Hungerford Dr. 1951



751 Twinbrook Pkwy. 1957



451 Meadow Hall Dr. 1962

International, continued



30 Courthouse Sq. 1962



380 Hungerford Dr. 1965



1000 First St. 1969



99 Maryland Ave. ▲ 1971  
(Demolished in 2009)





616 Douglas Ave.

1937

**MINIMAL TRADITIONAL (1930-1950)**

The minimal traditional house is modest in scale and ornamentation, and appears as a dominant builder house in the mid-20th century. Minimal traditional houses in Rockville range from one-story to one-and-one-half stories, and follow simple rectangular or square plans with plain entry porches or stoops. Gabled roofs without eaves, and brick veneer or asbestos shingle cladding are common features. The house at 1013 De Beck Drive, built circa 1942 as part of Thomas deBeck's addition to Rockville, features a side gable roof with asbestos shingles and an unadorned exterior.



925 Lewis Ave.

1940



314 Grandin Ave.

1940



700 Gail Ave.

1940



1013 De Beck Dr.

1942

Minimal Traditional, continued



404 S. Horners Ln. 1944



210 Lincoln Ave. 1945



915 Maple Ave. 1950



224 Elizabeth Ave. ▲ 1954 [1930s]

Although front façade entrances are typical, a second type of minimal traditional style houses illustrates **asymmetrical façades** with side entrances. Such side elevation entrances are seen in Rockville, as in 616 Douglas Avenue, built circa 1937.



1009 Veirs Mill Rd. 1940

Minimal Traditional, continued



1013 Veirs Mill Rd. 1940



1116 Agnew Dr. 1942



801 Wade Ave. 1942



1019 Crawford Dr. 1942



1105 Agnew Dr. 1942



1024 Crawford Dr. 1942



**Minimal Traditional, continued**



**806 Wade Ave.**

**1943**



**1109 Agnew Dr.**

**1943**



**1117 Agnew Dr.**

**1943**



**802 Wade Ave.**

**1944**

A third type of minimal traditional style in Rockville, although modest in ornamentation, will often incorporate elements from **period revival** styles such as the colonial revival and Tudor revival. For example, the house on 316 Grandin Avenue, built circa 1940, features double front gables – elements of the Tudor revival style. Most houses display symmetrical façades with the entrance placed in the center such as the house at 1019 Veirs Mill Road, built circa 1942. This house also features segmental arches over six-over-six double-hung windows – a common feature of the Rockcrest neighborhood.



**611 Douglas Ave.**

**1934**

Minimal Traditional, continued



316 Grandin Ave. 1940



1006 Crawford Dr. 1940



905 Lewis Ave. 1940



301 Park Rd. 1940



305 Woodland Rd. 1941



307 Woodland Rd. 1941

Minimal Traditional, continued



814 Wade Ave. 1941



1019 Veirs Mill Rd. 1942



1107 Agnew Dr. 1942



803 Wade Ave. 1942



1023 Veirs Mill Rd. 1942



705 Wade Ave. 1942



Minimal Traditional, continued



1003 Wade Ave. 1942



613 Douglas Ave. 1942



1012 Paul Dr. 1942



1013 Paul Dr. 1942



1110 Agnew Dr. 1943



1106 Agnew Dr. 1943



Minimal Traditional, continued



343 Howard Ave.

1943



800 Wade Ave.

1944



905 N. Stonestreet Ave.

1945



208 N. Horners Ln.

1945



1103 Veirs Mill Rd.

1946



**213 Lincoln Ave.**

**1920**

**CAPE COD (1930-1950)**

Cape Cod style houses are one or one-and-one-half stories high, loosely modeled after the frame cottages built in colonial New England. The gable roof with dormers, symmetrical façade, and adorned entrance such as the house at 9102 Darnestown Road, built circa 1934, and the house at 108 Upton Street, built circa 1942, characterize Cape Cod houses in Rockville.



**204 N. Horners Ln.**

**1928**



**20 Thomas St.**

**1930**



**210 N. Horners Ln.**

**1933**



**9102 Darnestown Rd.**

**1934**

Cape Cod, continued



216 Monroe St. 1938



107 Upton St. 1939



147 S. Adams St. 1939



1004 Crawford Dr. 1940



809 Gail Ave. 1940



908 Lewis Ave. 1940



**Cape Cod, continued**



**902 Lewis Ave.**

**1940**



**208 Lincoln Ave.**

**1940**



**1005 Veirs Mill Rd.**

**1940**



**205 Charles St.**

**1941**



**1003 Paul Dr.**

**1941**



**910 Lewis Ave.**

**1941**



Cape Cod, continued



310 Reading Ave. 1941



303 Potomac St. 1941



25 Williams St. 1941



202 Baltimore Rd. 1941



108 Upton St. 1942



218 Monroe St. 1942

Cape Cod, continued



7 Dale Dr. 1942



1006 Paul Dr. 1942



109 Luckett St. 1942



406 S. Horners Ln. 1943



9 Dale Dr. 1943



504 N. Horners Ln. 1943

**Cape Cod, continued**



**915 Crawford Dr.**

**1944**



**201 Upton St.**

**1944**



**306 Grandin Ave.**

**1945**

A second type of Cape Cod, with **full-width front porches**, were a common occurrence in East Rockville, like the house at 1007 De Beck Drive built circa 1941 for Thomas deBeck, the first developer of the Rockcrest subdivision.



**927 Lewis Ave.**

**1940**



Cape Cod, continued



1007 De Beck Dr. 1941



704 Douglas Ave. 1942



1108 Agnew Dr. 1943



600 Douglas Ave. 1943



123 S. Washington St. 1945